

## Architectural Style in Kansas

This is the third in a series of architectural style articles that will be published in *Kansas Preservation*. The articles are designed to provide general background information about architectural style and also may be used as context statements for National Register nominations.

The following publications may be helpful for determining and describing style:

Marcus Whiffen's *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (M. I. T. Press, Cambridge, 1969).

John Blumenson's *Identifying American Architecture* (American Association of State and Local History, Nashville, 1977).

Cyril Harris' *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction* (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1975).

John Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers' *What Style is It?* (Preservation Press, Washington, DC, 1983).

Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1984).



Many of homes in Kansas City's Hanover Heights neighborhood were constructed between 1914 and 1924 incorporating rusticated stone, stucco, brick, and frame in their construction.

# The Bungalow

## A Traditional American Home

The bungalow is the quintessential American home for the middle class. Bungalows were built by the thousands across this country between 1905 and 1930. The classic one-story cottages were popularized through magazines and mail order catalogues.

With its roots in the Craftsman movement, bungalow architecture espoused the use of natural materials and simplicity in design. Established in Britain as a reaction against Victorianism, the Arts and Crafts movement catered to the upper class. In this country, the Craftsman movement offered the growing middle class an opportunity for affordable housing that was thoughtfully designed and attractive.

Bungalow plans were published in Gustav Stickley's *The Craftsman Magazine* from 1901 until 1916. Stickley is credited with popularizing the Arts and Crafts Movement in this country. The construction costs for these homes ran between \$2,000 and \$15,000. Magazines such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Architec-*

*tural Record*, *Bungalow Magazine*, *Western Architect*, and *Ladies Home Journal* also published plans and helped to popularize the bungalow house type. Mail-order catalogues such as Aladdin, Sears Honor-Bilt, Radford's Artistic Bungalows, and Wards allowed prospective homebuilders to purchase an entire house kit for the design they desired.

In Kansas City's Hanover Heights neighborhood, William P. Faulkner built numerous Craftsman-inspired bungalows between 1914 and 1924. Targeting the middle class buyer, Faulkner priced his homes between \$1,000 and \$6,850. As a builder/owner, he created a new neighborhood of one and one-and-a-half story, front and side gabled bungalows with full and half-width porches. Faulkner employed rusticated stone for the chimneys, porch piers, and foundations. Low-pitched roofs, deep overhanging eaves, triangular roof brackets, facade gable windows, roof dormers, wide porches, and masonry porch piers established the ambience of the new suburb.

# Bungalow



*(Above) The Ralph and Cloyd Achning House (c. 1911) is a textbook example of a comfortable bungalow design. Located on a prominent corner in Lawrence, the bracketed sleeping porch readily identifies this house.*



*(Above) The Frank Wolcott House (c. 1919) is a two-story Craftsman bungalow with Colonial Revival porch detailing. The combination of a brick first floor topped with a frame second floor makes this Hutchinson example unique.*



*(Left) Many of the bungalows in Hanover Heights neighborhood of Kansas City were built by William P. Faulkner. The Craftsman-inspired one and one-and-a-half story homes display the wide overhanging eaves, large roof brackets, and wide porches that are hallmarks of the bungalow era.*

## Glossary

*Bracket - an overhanging member projecting from a wall or other body to support a weight (such as a cornice) acting outside the wall*

*Dormer - a structure projecting from a sloping roof, usually housing a window or ventilating louver*

*Gable - the vertical triangular portion of the end of a building having a double-sloping roof*

*Pergola - open roofed structure attached to side of building*

*Pier - thick column or post designed to support concentrated loads*

In design, a typical bungalow is a one-story house with gently pitched broad gables.

Gable placement is an important visual and structural aspect of bungalow design: one-third are front-gabled, one-third are side-gabled, and the remaining third are cross-gable and hipped roof variants.

The bungalow's broad roof and deep, overhanging eaves conjoin with a usually spacious front porch. Structural members

such as rafters, ridge beams, and purlins are intentionally exposed.

Bungalows are clad with wood shingles, clapboard, or stucco. Tapered stone, wood, or brick piers support the porches.

Dormers were frequently utilized to open up the upper story; porte cocheres and pergolas are also employed. Fenestration is often composed of window bands.

At its core, the bungalow design is simple and easily subject to stylistic variations. As its popularity and accessibility grew, so too did the options for what a bungalow looked like. By the 1920s bungalow design adopted features from various revival styles, such as Spanish Colonial, Colonial, and Tudor Revival. The bungalow accommodated many stylistic applications with very little change to its basic plan, shape, and massing.

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